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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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09/655,511 09/05/00 NOMI

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QM32/0315

EXAMINER

JORDAN AND HAMBURG
122 EAST 42ND STREET
NEW YORK NY 10168

JONES, S ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3713
DATE MAILED:

03/15/01

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/655,511

Applicant(s)

NOMI ET AL.

Examiner

Scott E. Jones

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claims ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

- 15) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 16) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 17) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 2.
- 18) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) ____.
- 19) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 20) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. Applicant is required to submit a proposed drawing correction in reply to this Office action. However, formal correction of the noted defect can be deferred until the application is allowed by the examiner.
2. The drawings are objected to because in figure 12, a foreign language is used in the drawing. In figure 15, "perfect" is misspelled "parfect" Correction is required.
3. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they do not include the following reference sign(s) mentioned in the description: On page 15, line 16, item 54h is referred to as being in figure 15. On page 16, line 2, item 55h is referred to as being in figure 16. Correction is required.
4. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the detachable CD-ROM referred to on page 22, line 22, must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.

Specification

5. 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, requires the specification to be written in "full, clear, concise, and exact terms." The specification is replete with terms which are not clear, concise and exact. The specification should be revised carefully in order to comply with 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph. Examples of some unclear, inexact or verbose terms used in the specification are: On page 2, lines 4-6, "...adapted for being held in a game player, for being usable in hitting motion or a swinging motion,..." On page 34, line 19 the language "...variegating..."

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6. The lengthy specification has not been checked to the extent necessary to determine the presence of all possible minor errors. Applicant's cooperation is requested in correcting any errors of which applicant may become aware in the specification.

7. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: On page 6, line 17, "dual" is misspelled "duel". On page 17, line 8, the examiner believes the applicant is referring to figure 19 rather than figure 9. On page 13, line 9, item 53c of figure 12 is referred to as 53g. Appropriate correction is required.

8. The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

9. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

10. Claims 1-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The claims are generally narrative and indefinite, failing to conform with current U.S. practice. They appear to be a literal translation into English from a foreign document and are replete with grammatical and idiomatic errors.

Regarding claim 1, lines 2-3, the language "...adapted for being held in a game player..." is vague and indefinite. In claim 1, lines 3-4, the language "...for being usable in hitting motion or a swinging motion..." is vague and indefinite. In claim 1, lines 7-9, the language "...a display

means having a display screen for displaying and successively renewing as instruction of motion on the display screen..." is vague and indefinite.

The examiner has only noted several deficiencies in claims regarding indefinite claim language. It is suggested that the applicant review the entire application to ensure that the claims are clear and definite.

11. Claim 4 recites the limitation "the form" in lines 2-3. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

12. Claim 6 recites the limitation "the signal inputted" in line 5. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

The examiner has only noted two deficiencies regarding a lack of antecedent basis for limitations in the claims. It is suggested that the applicant review the entire application to ensure that the claims have sufficient antecedent basis for the limitations stated in the claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

13. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

14. Claims 1-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sagawa et al. in view of Kosugi et al. Sagawa et al. (E.P. Patent 0,903,169,A2) discloses two operating sections with an operation input device comprising a keyboard input unit 13 and a turntable input unit 14 of figure 1, column 11, lines 34-36 (claim 1). Sagawa et al. discloses an effect producing device for producing a performance effect in response to a performance operation performed by

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the player to each of the operation members, column 1, lines 37-40 and column 2, lines 14-21 (claims 1 and 11). Sagawa et al. discloses a storage device for storing data of a musical composition and data of a performance procedure associated with the musical composition; a music play device for playing the musical composition based on the data stored in the storage device; and an operation instructing device for giving the player a visual instruction to operate the operation members in accordance with progress of a play of the musical composition based on the data stored in the storage device, column 1, lines 26-36, column 2, lines 22-32, and figures 7 and 10 (claims 1, 4 and 5). Sagawa et al. discloses an estimation device may estimate the performance operation based on a difference between timing of the performance procedure and timing at which the player actually performed the performance operation, column 1, lines 41-45 and column 4, lines 7-11 (claims 1 and 10). Sagawa et al. discloses a sound effect producing device for producing the sound effects based on the operation input signals issued from the operation input device and the data of the sound effects stored in the storage device; and an estimation device for estimating operation of the player based on the operation input signals issued from the operation input device and the data of the performance procedure stored in the storage device, column 7, lines 16-24 (claim 1).

Sagawa et al. discloses producing at least one of the sound effects based on the operation input signals issued from the operation members and the data of the sound effects; estimating operations performed by the player based on the operation input signals issued from the operation members and the data defining the procedure, column 9, lines 4-10 (claim 2).

Sagawa et al. discloses an effect producing device may produce a reaction effect as one type of the performance effect each time the estimation device determines the estimation result,

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and the reaction effect may be changed in accordance with the estimation result, column 4, lines 16-20 (claim 3).

Sagawa et al. discloses a data storage device may store a plurality of data sets, each of which includes the data of the musical composition and the data of the performance procedure; and said game machine may further comprise a stage progress management device for controlling progress of a game in such a manner that when the estimation device gives a predetermined level of estimation with respect to the performance operation in one stage in which the musical playing device plays the musical composition based on one of the data sets; the game is allowed to progress to a next stage in which the music play device plays the musical composition and the instructing device instructs the performance operation based on another one of the data sets, column 3, lines 29-42 (claims 6, 8 and 12).

Sagawa et al. discloses an indication of the indicator may change in such a manner that the length of each index mark represents a time period during which the player must hit a key repeatedly, column 16, lines 52-58 and column 17, line 1 (claim 7).

Sagawa et al. discloses a storage device for storing data of a musical composition and data of a performance procedure associated with the musical composition. This storage device may include a storage device such as a hard disk drive or a (replaceable) floppy disk, an optical or a magneto-optical storage device such as a (replaceable) CD-ROM, a semiconductor storage device such as a RAM or a ROM, or the various types of storage devices, column 1, lines 26-28 and column 9, lines 37-42 (claim 8). Sagawa et al. discloses a performance procedure presenting device for presenting the player with the performance procedure in a visual manner in association with a play of the musical composition based on the data of the performance

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procedure stored in the storage device, column 7, lines 10-15 (claim 8). Sagawa et al. discloses a sound effect producing device for producing the sound effects based on the operation input signals issued from the operation input device and the data of the sound effects stored in the storage device, column 7, lines 16-19 (claim 8).

Sagawa et al. discloses a storage device for storing data of a musical composition, data of a performance procedure with respect to each of the operation members of the operation input device, and data of sound effects corresponding to each of the operation members, column 7, lines 2-9 and figure 6, items 52, and 8a-c (claim 9).

Sagawa et al. discloses a player operates at least one of the operation members in association with the music, the performance effect corresponding to the operation is mixed on the music. Since the data of the performance procedure is stored in advance and correct timing to operate each operation member is indicated to the player through the operation instructing device in a visual manner, the player only has to operate the operation members in accordance with the instruction given from the game machine, column 1, lines 50-58, column 2, lines 1-3, and figures 3 and 4 (claim 11).

Sagawa et al. discloses two image display areas for displaying instructions to player(s) while moving the instructions with respect to a reference mark provided on the left and right sides of the screen and includes two signal generators provide on the left and right side of the game system, figure 1, items 5, 14, and 15a-e, and figure 9, items 65 a and b (claims 13 and 14).

Sagawa et al. does not explicitly disclose a signal-generating device held in the hand of a player which generates signals corresponding to hitting and swinging motions (claims 1 and 11). The patent to Kosugi et al. (U.S. Patent # 5,229,756) shows hand grip input devices used to

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signal an input (hitting or swinging) from a user to an image control apparatus to simulate a boxing match, abstract and figures 16-18 and figure 4, items a and b (claims 1 and 11).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art, at the time of the applicant's invention, to replace the turntable scratch pad and musical keyboard input keys of Sagawa et al. with the hand grip input device of Kosugi et al. making it easier for a game player to respond rapidly and accurately to an action shown on the display device.

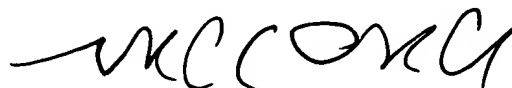
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Scott E. Jones whose telephone number is (703) 308-7133. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 8:30 A.M. - 5:30 P.M..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Valencia Martin-Wallace can be reached on (703) 308-1118. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 305-3579 for regular communications and (703) 305-3579 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1118.

Scott E. Jones
Examiner
Art Unit 3713

sej
March 12, 2001



MICHAEL O'NEILL
PRIMARY EXAMINER